

letter mail across the continent, while at the same time protecting and comforting emigrants and settlers along the public domain. The distance between Missouri and San Francisco is about 2,300 miles.

They do things, as well as speak of doing them, on an immense scale in America. 3,000 miles of telegraph in an unbroken chain, between New York and New Orleans, were actually completed on 9th ult. The *New York Times* of 10th says:—"Last evening the New Orleans telegraphic operators had a chat for the first time, wire to wire, with their contemporaries in Hanover-street. New York despatches were forwarded and answers received from New Orleans dated one hour after they were received. Thus a message started from this office, traversed 3,000 miles, and arrived at its destination 60 minutes after it started."

Mr. Henry Evans, of New Bedford, U.S. has invented a submarine telegraph wire rope, of hemp yarns, of any thickness required, the yarns being saturated in a composition that is durable and impervious to water. The four strands of which it is composed are made at the same time. A copper, steel, or iron wire, of any required size, is completely bedded in the centre of each strand, and one also in the heart of the rope, making five wires in all. The cavity of the rope is filled solid with yarns, and then a thick coating of the same is put over the outside, making the rope perfectly round. The whole is then covered with iron or copper rods. The machinery is capable of making a rope of any length without splicing. It may be made to weigh from one to twenty tons per mile.

#### PIPE DRAINS & BRICK SEWERS.

WITH the subject of sanitary legislation again on the tapis, the Board of Health sickly, and the Sewers Commission about to expire,—with every body anxious to know what is next to be done, and nobody can tell,—there seems no help for it but "The Press."

Inquiries have been started on a kindred subject—originating in a matter comparatively trivial in itself, which led to a discussion at the Institution of Civil Engineers, on the comparative merits of pipes and brick sewers, and the opinions expressed there have fallen, among Local Boards in the provinces, like a spark on tinder, or tow, where it would seem that smouldering doubts and dissatisfaction were ready to burst into a blaze.

These Local Boards have eagerly taken up the subject, and instituted inquiries, by means of deputations; investigating the working of pipe sewers wherever they can find them laid down—and in operation,—evidently under an impression that, however plausible the theory of pipe sewers, "all pipes, and nothing but pipes," may be; yet a little of something in the shape of actual proof from experience of their use would do no harm.

Now this is a question of some importance to the public, as large sums of money are being, or are about to be, expended on town drainage, under Local Boards in the provinces, as well as in the Metropolis; and as very different opinions are held on the subject in high quarters, it is full time for each party to bring their preferences to the proof, and to let it be decided by those in whom the public have most confidence, that the public money may not be wasted on sewers unnecessarily expensive, nor thrown away on things theoretically cheap and actually useless.

Permit me, therefore, to request you to invite those skilled in the mysteries of hydraulics, the properties of pipes, and the benefits of brick sewers, to give us proofs of the advantages of their several systems, that merit may have its reward, and the rate-payers get value for their money.

A RATE-PAYER.

**NELSON MONUMENT AT BIRMINGHAM.**—Having been twice lately at Birmingham, at an interval of six weeks, I have each time seen attached to the figure of England's naval hero, which is on the summit of the monument in the Bill-rings, a roll of paper, or some such substance, about the length and thickness of a man's arm, fastened by a string round the neck, and banging behind like an enormous queue, wafting to and fro when the wind is lively. I offered a policeman standing near the monument a shilling if he would remove it, but he told me I had better mind my own affairs.—H. M.

#### Notices of Books.

*Records of the School of Mines and of Science, applied to the Arts.* Vol. I. Part I. Longman, Brown, Green, and Longman.

UNDER this title are published, the Discourse given by Sir Henry De La Beche, at the inauguration of the school, together with the lectures introductory to the various courses on subjects important to the progress of the industrial arts and manufactures, as set forth in the Museum of Practical Geology, delivered during the Session 1851—52. These lectures have been from time to time noticed by us, and we need only state that the volume contains—Dr. Lyon Playfair's, prefatory to the Course of Chemistry; Professor Forbes, on Natural History, in its relation to Geology and the Arts; Mr. Robert Hunt, on Mechanical Science; one by Andrew C. Ramsay, F.R.S. introductory to the Course of Geology; Warrington W. Smyth, on Mineralogy and Mining; and the Introduction, by Dr. John Percy, to the Course Illustrative of Metallurgy.

*Specimens of Tile Pavements, drawn from existing Authorities.* By HENRY SHAW, F.S.A. London: William Pickering. No. 1.

THE first part of this work contains a general view of a fine pavement existing in the house of William Canynge, Redcliffe-street, Bristol, and three sheets of the tiles at large. The author's feeling in commencing the work is that, notwithstanding publications already made, a series of specimens of the many varieties of general arrangement to be found in those still existing, will be valuable as a work of reference.

*The Story of Nell Gwyn, and the Sayings of Charles the Second.* Related and Collected by PETER CUNNINGHAM, F.S.A. London, Bradbury and Evans, 1852.

THIS story first appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and we then quoted from it some notices of the early theatres. It has been enlarged, with such new matter as Mr. Cunningham's "own diligence and the kindness of friends" have enabled him to bring together, and now forms a volume strikingly illustrative of the period whereof it treats. The undisguised libertinism of that age is well known, and it is scarcely necessary to say that a book which gives a view of this, however brief, is not so much intended for the drawing-room as for the library of the antiquary and historical student. Mr. Cunningham displays in it much curious knowledge of the literature of the period, and has brought together some singular matter. Here is a definition which may be new to our readers. Nelly is living at Epsom;—

"The Derby and the Oaks, the races which have rendered Epsom so famous, and our not less celebrated Tottenham Corner, were then unknown; but the King's Head and the New Inn, Clay Hill and Mawse's Garden, were favourite names, full of attractions to London apprentices, sighing to see their indentures at an end, and Epsom no longer excluded from their places of resort. The waters were considered efficacious, and the citizens east of Temple-bar were supposed to receive as much benefit from their use, as the courtiers west of the Bar were presumed to receive from the waters of Tunbridge Wells. The alderman or his deputy, on their way to this somewhat inaccessible suburb of the reign of Charles II. were met at Tooting by lodging-house keepers, tradesmen, and quack-doctors, with so many clamorous importunities for patronage, that the very expressive English word *toftag* derives its origin from the village where this plying for trade was carried to so importunate an extent."

It may be well to remember, however, that we have in our dictionaries the word *toot*, "to sound as a horn," "to make a noise," from the Dutch *toeten*, to blow the horn.

In the collection of Charles the Second's sayings is given one of his replies to Sir Christopher Wren, which is characteristic both of the monarch and the architect:—"The King was inspecting the new apartments which Wren had built for him in his hunting-palace, at Newmarket, and observed that 'he thought the

rooms too low.' Sir Christopher, who was a little man, walked round them, and looking up and about him, said, 'I think, and it please your Majesty, they are high enough.' Charles, squatting down to his architect's height, and creeping about in this whimsical posture, cried 'Aye, Sir Christopher, I think they are high enough.'"

Mr. Cunningham sees no reason to doubt that the Royal Hospital at Chelsea originated with Nelly. The first stone was laid by the king in 1692.

The draughtsman who prepared the illustration of Covent-garden in the reign of Charles II. has erred in representing the portico of St. Paul's Church as *ionic*. Every one knows, and no one better than Mr. Cunningham, that this was and is the one single modern example of "Tuscan," that we have to refer to.

The binding is a fac-simile of Charles the Second's own pattern for all his books, and is very elegant: the cloth is in imitation of his favourite red morocco.

#### Miscellaneous.

**A NEW SOCIETY FOR IMPROVING DWELLINGS FOR THE WORKING-CLASSES.**—A public meeting was held on 6th inst. at Willis's Rooms, St. James's, the Duke of Cambridge in the chair, when resolutions in favour of the objects of the General Society for Improving Working-class Dwellings, and of the establishment of another on a somewhat similar footing, were unanimously passed by a very large assemblage of influential persons. The chairman stated that in conjunction with the St. James's Sanitary Association, a committee of gentlemen, among whom was Viscount Ingestre, had obtained a site for eight tenements to contain sixty-four dwellings for families as a commencement of operations as a new society, with objects in complete sympathy with those already established. Lord Ingestre said he hoped he might, without conceit, call this his society. The committee had throughout been most anxious that nothing but truth should go forth to the world. He thought the society would prosper, because they had endeavoured to give the working classes a position to which they were entitled. It was found that many men did not like model-lodging houses, which they regarded in the light of charity, and they asked why they should not have a house as much their own as that of any noble lord. The bishops of London and Oxford, Lord Ellesmere, Sir J. Villiers Shelly, and other gentlemen, also addressed the meeting.

**IMPROPER APPROPRIATION OF MANUFACTURERS' PATTERNS BY WORKMEN.**—At the Public Office on Thursday last, two young men named William Harrington and Thomas Lucas, both workmen employed by Messrs. T. and E. Wharton, general plaster, &c., Great Charles-street, were summoned under one of the sections of the Act 4 George IV., c. 34, for the regulation of differences between masters and servants, for improperly taking and obtaining castings of certain patterns belonging to their masters, without their permission. Mr. Edmunds observed in reply, that the articles had been cast from the patterns with a view of sending them, with other things, as ornaments to a brother, who resided in America, and the metal with which they were cast was paid for. He (Mr. Edmunds) had explained to the defendants that even this was exceedingly wrong, and they themselves much regretted their imprudence. An apology being accepted by the complainants, further proceedings were not taken, it having been arranged that the castings taken from the patterns should be given up to Messrs. Wharton. One of the sitting magistrates expressed himself strongly on the character of such an offence as appropriating patterns for the purposes of competition with original designers, and observed that should any case of such a nature be clearly proved, and the penalty pressed for, before him, at any time, he should feel it his duty to punish as severely as the law would allow.—*Birmingham Journal*.